



Internazionali d'Italia series: tomorrow in Esanatoglia

Simone Avondetto will take on the Cannondale Factory Team in the men's race, while Sofie Pedersen will be the big favourite in the women's race.

Esanatoglia is ready for the second stage of the Internazionali d'Italia, Santoporo XC. Today, as usual, the athletes tested the course designed inside the 'Gina Libani Repetti' international cross-country track.

*"It is definitely a selective course, there is not a metre of flat. It is either uphill or downhill. It's fast and technical to the right point, so it's also suitable for the youngsters who will be competing on Sunday," explained **Mirko Celestino - Technical Delegate of the National Cross Country and Marathon Team.** "I have never had the chance to ride it before today and I must say that it is fun. There are many well-maintained descents in the undergrowth and slower sections where you have to be very careful. It will be crucial to calculate the trajectories well. The fact that it is a 3.6 kilometre loop means that there will be several laps and this will allow you to study the best route".*

Tomorrow's forecast is for mostly cloudy or partly cloudy skies with temperatures ranging from 11 to 23°C. Winds will be moderate in the morning, with a tendency to increase in the afternoon.

In the absence of Luca Braidot, winner of San Zeno di Montagna, the focus in the elite men's race will be on **Simone Avondetto** (Wilier-Vittoria Factory Team XCO), second two weeks ago. He will have to contend with the arrival of the Cannondale Factory Racing battleship tomorrow, in particular **Simon Andreassen** and **Charlie Aldridge**, the reigning U23 world champion and English champion. **Daniele Braidot** and **Filippo Fontana** (Carabinieri Cicli Olympia) will complete the top riders in the hunt for points in the run-up to Paris 2024.

On the women's side, Italian champion Martina Berta, as well as the winner of the first stage, will be absent. A golden opportunity for Sofie Pedersen, already European U23 champion, to take the Internazionali d'Italia leader's jersey in the women's open category.

At the end of the day on Saturday, the new format "Race recap and race process" will be repeated live from Esanatoglia. An opportunity to review all the day's events with the great guests present, on the Internazionali d'Italia Series [YouTube](#) channel from 19.00.

The programme

The Santoporo XC races will start on Saturday **30th March** at **10.00** with the Junior Men's race, followed by the **Women's (Open and Junior)** at **12.00** and the **Open Men's** at **14.30**.

The next day, Sunday **31 March**, the focus will be on the youngsters: over 400 participants from all over Italy are expected to take part from 10am, with the **Esordienti**, **Allievi** and **Giovanissimi** categories closing the event.